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### FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

**West Virginia -- Commercial red meat production** during February 2006 totaled 400,000 pounds, the same as last year. This is 37 percent below the January 2006 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 495,000 pounds live weight, down 18 percent from February 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,010 pounds, was up 44 pounds from a year ago.

**Commercial calf slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Commercial hog slaughter totaled** 132,000 pounds live weight, up 6 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, the same as the previous year. The average live weight, at 271 pounds, was up 6 pounds from the previous year.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**United States -- Commercial red meat production** totaled 3.48 billion pounds in February, up

2 percent from the 3.42 billion pounds produced in February 2005.

**Beef production**, at 1.82 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.35 million head, up slightly from February 2005. The average live weight was up 30 pounds from the previous year, at 1,283 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 11.7 million pounds, 3 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 53,000 head, down 14 percent from February 2005. The average live weight was 35 pounds above last year, at 362 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.05 million head, 1 percent below February 2005. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 14.7 million pounds, was down 3 percent from February 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 202,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 145 pounds, up 5 pounds from February a year ago.

**January to February 2006 commercial red meat production** was 7.4 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal was down 5 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 4 percent.

**February 2005** contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

**February 2006** contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

### CHICKEN & EGGS

**U.S. egg production** totaled 6.97 billion during February 2006, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 5.99 billion table eggs, and 989 million hatching eggs, of which 927 million were broiler-type and 62 million were egg-type. The number of layers during February 2006 averaged 350 million, up slightly from a year earlier.

**February egg production** per 100 layers was 1,995 eggs, also up slightly from February 2005.

**All layers** in the U.S. on March 1, 2006, totaled 350 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 350 million layers consisted of 291 million layers producing table-type eggs, 56 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.91 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2006, averaged 71.6 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from March 1, 2005.

**Egg-type chicks** hatched during February 2006 totaled 33.7 million, down 1 percent from February 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 36.5 million on March 1, 2006 down 1 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 196,000 during February 2006, down 6 percent from February 2005.

**Broiler-type chicks** hatched during February 2006 totaled 733 million, up slightly from February 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 666 million on March 1, 2006, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.59 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2006, up 4 percent from February 2005.

#### ANNUAL HATCHERY PRODUCTION

**Broiler-type chicks hatched** during 2005 totaled 9.48 billion, up 2 percent from 2004. This record level continues the trend of annual increases begun in 1975.

Leading U.S. breeders had intended placements of 85.1 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during 2005, up 1 percent from 2004.

**Placements of broiler chicks** in the 19-State weekly program totaled 9.06 billion during the 52 week period ending December 31, 2005 up 2 percent from the 52 week period ending January 1, 2005. The states included are Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, California, Missouri, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

**Egg-type chicks hatched** during 2005 totaled 437 million, down slightly from 2004. Leading U.S. breeders had intended placements of 2.85 million egg-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery

supply flocks during 2005, down 5 percent from 2004.

**Turkey hatcheries** placed 276 million poults in the United States during 2005. These placements were down slightly from 2004.

The **capacity of chicken hatcheries** on January 1, 2006 was 888 million eggs, up 1 percent from January 1, 2005.

The **capacity of turkey hatcheries** was 39.2 million eggs on January 1, 2006, down 7 percent from January 1, 2005.

#### QUARTERLY HOGS AND PIGS

**U.S. inventory** of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2006 was 60.1 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2005, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2005.

**Breeding inventory**, at 6.03 million head, was up 1 percent from last year and up slightly from the previous quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 54.1 million head, was up 1 percent from last year but down 2 percent from last quarter.

**The December 2005-February 2006 pig crop**, at 25.7 million head, was up 1 percent from 2005 and up 2 percent from 2004. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, up slightly from both 2004 and 2005. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the December 2005-February 2006 period, compared to 8.94 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

**U.S. hog producers** intend to have 2.90 million sows farrow during the March-May 2006 quarter, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in both 2004 and 2005. Intended farrowings for June-August 2006, at 2.92 million sows, are up slightly from 2005 and up 1 percent from 2004.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, unchanged from last year.

**Revisions**--All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2005 through December 2005 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data.

Based on the findings of this review, small adjustments of less than one-half of one percent were made to the September 2005 and December 2005 total inventory. An adjustment of slightly larger than one-half of one percent was made to the June-August pig crop.

### PROSPECTIVE PLANTING-INTENTIONS 'March Ag Survey Results'

**West Virginia -- Corn** plantings in West Virginia are expected to total 45,000 acres, the same as 2005, and down 6% or 3,000 acres from 2004.

**Winter wheat** planted area is estimated at 8,000 acres, up 14% or 1,000 acres from 2005, and the same as 2004.

**Soybeans** planted acreage is expected to total 17,000 acres, down 6% or 1,000 acres from 2005, and down 11% or 2,000 acres from 2004.

**All hay** acreage harvested is expected to total 595,000 acres, up 3% or 20,000 acres from 2005 and 2004.

#### United States with 2005 Comparisons:

- Corn plantings - 78.0 million acres, down 5%.
- Oat plantings - 4.32 million acres, up 2%.
- Winter wheat planted - 41.4 million acres, up 2%.
- All tobacco for harvest - 306,630 acres, up 3%.
- Burley tobacco for harvest - 83,500 acres, down 17%.
- Soybean plantings - 76.9 million acres, up 7%.
- Sorghum plantings - 6.5 million acres, up slightly.
- Barley plantings - 3.67 million acres, down 5%.
- All hay for harvest - 61.5 million acres, down slightly.

### GRAIN STOCKS

**Corn** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 6.99 billion bushels, up 3 percent from March 1, 2005. Of the total stocks, 4.06 billion bushels are stored on farms, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.93 billion bushels, are up 12 percent from a year ago. The December 2005 - February 2006 indicated disappearance is 2.83 billion bushels, compared with 2.70 billion bushels during the same period last year.

**Soybeans** stored in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 1.67 billion bushels, up 21 percent from March 1, 2005. This is the largest March 1 stocks level on record, exceeding the previous record set in 1999 by 1 percent. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at a record high 872 million bushels, up 10 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 797 million bushels, are up 36 percent from last March and are also at a record high level. Indicated disappearance for the December 2005 - February 2006 quarter totaled 834 million bushels, down 10 percent from the same period a year earlier.

**All wheat** stored in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 972 million bushels, down 1 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 256 million bushels, down 16 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 716 million bushels, are up 5 percent from a year ago. The indicated disappearance during December 2005 - February 2006 is 457 million bushels, up 3 percent from the same period a year earlier.

**Durum wheat** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 65.6 million bushels, up 18 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 39.5 million bushels, are up 12 percent from March 1, 2005. Off-farm stocks totaled 26.1 million bushels, up 27 percent from a year ago. The December 2005 - February 2006 indicated disappearance of 16.5 million bushels is down 28 percent from the same period a year earlier.

**Barley** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 167 million bushels, down 13 percent from March 1, 2005. On-farm stocks are estimated at 68.4 million bushels, 14 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 98.2 million bushels, are 12 percent below March 2005. The indicated disappearance during December 2005-February 2006 totaled 41.4 million bushels, 25 percent below the same period a year earlier.

**Oats** stored in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 74.7 million bushels, 9 percent below the stocks on March 1, 2005. Of the total stocks on hand, 41.9 million bushels are stored on farms, down 4 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 32.8 million bushels, down 16 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance during December 2005 - February 2006 totaled 21.0

million bushels, down 7 percent from the same period a year ago.

### MILK PRODUCTION

**West Virginia -- Milk production** totaled 50 million pounds during the January - March quarter of 2006. This was up 2 million pounds from the same quarter last year and up 1 million pounds from the October - December 2005 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 13,000 head, unchanged from the previous quarter and the same quarter last year.

**United States -- Milk production** during the January - March quarter totaled 45.5 billion pounds, up 5.0 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.09 million head, 91,000 head more than the same period last year.

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Meat Animal Production,  
Disposition and Income  
May Crop Production  
Milk Production,  
Disposition and Income

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